

# Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill OVERVIEW

(Last update 2/9/16)

**2016 SCBG Proposals must be received by 3pm EST Thursday, March 31, 2016, and will not be accepted if received after the deadline. Applications must be sent in a WORD document to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov). All application materials, including letters of support and attachments, must be provided in ONE E-MAIL by the deadline. Letters of support do not count toward maximum allowable pages.**

**Please read ALL materials carefully. There are changes in the application and requirements. Any application not sent in the correct format and complete will not be accepted for review.**

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This is the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) program outline for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program-Farm Bill (SCBGP-FB) through the United States Department of Agriculture/Ag Marketing Service (USDA/AMS). The funding is from the federal allocations.

Specialty crops are defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.” Included are listings of plants commonly considered as fruits and tree nuts; vegetables; culinary herbs and spices; medicinal herbs; and nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops.

## **PURPOSE OF GRANTS**

The sole purpose of this grant program is “enhancing the competitiveness” of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, increased knowledge and consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, good agricultural practices, good handling practices, and good manufacturing practices.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

SCBGP-FB funds shall be used for projects that **solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops** that benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole.

Grant funds **will not** be awarded for projects that directly benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual, as these projects do not enhance specialty crop industry competitiveness. Projects must include a plan to disseminate results to the targeted segment or industry.

Any industry or organization that submits or endorses multiple applications may be asked to prioritize those projects.

### Specialty Crop Block Grant Timeline:

Applications Due to MDARD	March 31, 2016
Evaluation Committee	April/May 2016
MDARD prepares USDA application	May/June 2016
MDARD submits State Plan to USDA for review	July 2016
USDA reviews State Plan	August/September 2016
USDA State Plan approval and agreement with USDA	Late September 2016
Grant agreements signed with sub-awardees	October/November 2016

### **GENERAL COMPLIANCE**

All awarded grant projects must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and the terms of the grant award. Specific federal requirements can be found on the Office of Management and Budget website "Circulars" information area <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/>. Each applicant is responsible for identifying and complying with all circulars relevant to the applicant's organization type.

The grantee will be responsible for setting up and maintaining a project file that contains records of correspondence with MDARD, receipts, invoices and copies of all reports and documents associated with the project. The grantee shall retain all data and other records relating to the acquisition and performance of the Grant Award Agreement for a period of three years after MDARD submits the final report to USDA. All records shall be subject to inspection and audit by state personnel at reasonable times. Upon request, the grantee shall produce a legible copy of any or all such records.

MDARD reserves the right to perform site monitoring visits to any and all grantees to ensure that work is progressing within the required time frame and that fiscal procedures are followed accurately and appropriately. Monitoring includes both financial and program information, as well as, site visits.

All applicants must register with the federal System for Award Management ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)) and provide updates as needed. Registration with this site allows the organization to do business with the Federal government and ensures that Federal Funds are not paid to organizations that have been suspended or disbarred.

All applicants must also have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which is the nine digit number assigned by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) that uniquely identifies business entities. A DUNS number can be obtained or updated by calling 1-866-705-5711 or their website <https://iupdate.dnb.com/iupdate/viewUpdateHome.htm>.

Organizations must be legal entities recognized by the IRS AND A REGISTERED VENDOR WITH THE State of Michigan. To register, please visit: [www.michigan.gov/cpexpress](http://www.michigan.gov/cpexpress)

Applicants must reside, and/or conduct their business or organization in Michigan and must be in good standing.

All eligible applicants will be reviewed by a team of industry experts. The Joint Evaluation Committee (JEC) will review proposals and recommend proposals for award to the MDARD Director. With the Director's approval, MDARD staff will prepare and submit those projects in the Michigan State Plan to USDA/AMS in accordance with State Plan requirements.

### **GRANT PROPOSAL CRITERIA**

- Grant proposal(s) - Please complete the application in the format provided. The application format **must** be followed.
- Grant period will be November 1, 2016, through September 30, 2018.
- Maximum award amount is \$100,000 per proposal. Only proposals submitted in whole dollar amounts will be considered.
- This is a cost reimbursement program. Grantees are required to submit an invoice to MDARD with proper documentation of expenses.
- Two applications per entity are eligible for consideration.
- Applicants who do not submit progress and annual reports on time, and/or submit incomplete reports, may be removed from consideration of future funding or risk the forfeiture of current funding.
- Applicants must include a plan to disseminate results to a target industry or segment.
- **2016 SCBG proposals must be received by 3pm EST Thursday, March 31, 2016, and will not be accepted if received after the deadline. Applications must be sent in a WORD document to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov). All application materials including letters of support and attachments must be provided in one e-mail by the deadline. Letters of support do not count toward maximum allowable pages.**
- Applications must be limited to ten (10) pages - 8½" x 11", with not less than 11-point Arial font and one-inch margins.
- Applications must follow format requirements in the application or will be disqualified from review.
- Recommendation of proposals to be awarded will be determined as soon as possible, and all applicants will be notified.
- If your project is recommended for funding, the contact person must be available for questions and comments from USDA AMS until the State Plan is accepted. Failure to comply with these requests may result in the withdrawal of your project from funding consideration.
- Projects cannot begin work and/or expend any funds until a signed grant agreement is in place typically after November 1, 2016.

- The Director of Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development will have final authority to approve or not approve grant awards, based upon selection criteria, program priorities and application instructions.

## **ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES:**

This list is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather intended to give examples of the most common specialty crops. For a complete list, see: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp).

### **Fruits and Tree Nuts**

Almond	Grape (including raisin)
Apple	Guava
Apricot	Kiwi
Avocado	Litchi
Banana	Macadamia
Blackberry	Mango
Blueberry	Nectarine
Breadfruit	Olive
Cacao	Papaya
Cashew	Passion fruit
Citrus	Peach
Cherimoya	Pear
Cherry	Pecan
Chestnut (for nuts)	Persimmon
Coconut	Pineapple
Coffee	Pistachio
Cranberry	Plum (including prune)
Currant	Pomegranate
Date	Quince
Feijou	Raspberry
Fig	Strawberry
Filbert (hazelnut)	Suriname cherry
Gooseberry	Walnut
Saskatoon berries	

### **Vegetables**

Artichoke	Mustard and other greens
Asparagus	Okra
Bean - Snap or green	Pea
Lima - Dry, edible	Garden, English or edible pod
Beet, table	Onion
Broccoli (including broccoli raab)	Opuntia
Brussels sprouts	Parsley
Cabbage (including Chinese)	Parsnip
Carrot	Pepper
Cauliflower	Potato
Celeriac	Pumpkin
Celery	Radish (all types)
Chive	Rhubarb
Collards (including kale)	Rutabaga
Cucumber	Salsify
Edamame	Spinach
Eggplant	Squash (summer and winter)
Endive	Sweet corn
Garlic	Sweet potato
Horseradish	Swiss chard
Kohlrabi	Taro

Leek	Tomato (including tomatillo)
Lettuce	Turnip
Melon (all types)	Watermelon
Mushroom (cultivated)	

### Culinary Herbs and Spices

Ajwain	Clary	Malabathrum
Allspice	Cloves	Marjoram
Angelica	Comfrey	Mint (all types)
Anise	Common rue	Nutmeg
Annatto	Coriander	Oregano
Artemisia (all types)	Cress	Orris root
Asafetida	Cumin	Paprika
Basil (all types)	Curry	Parsley
Bay (cultivated)	Dill	Pepper
Bladder wrack	Fennel	Rocket (arugula)
Bolivian coriander	Fenugreek	Rosemary
Borage	Filé (gumbo, cultivated)	Rue
Calendula	Fingerroot	Saffron
Chamomile	French sorrel	Sage (all types)
Candle nut	Galangal	Savory (all types)
Caper	Ginger	Tarragon
Caraway	Hops	Thyme
Cardamom	Horehound	Turmeric
Cassia	Hyssop	Vanilla
Catnip	Lavender	Wasabi
Chervil	Lemon balm	Water cress
Chicory	Lemon thyme	
Cicely	Lovage	
Cilantro	Mace	
Cinnamon	Mahlab	

### Medicinal Herbs

Artemisia	Marshmallow
Arum	Mullein
Astragalus	Passion flower
Boldo	Patchouli
Cananga	Pennyroyal
Comfrey	Pokeweed
Coneflower	St. John's wort
Fenugreek	Senna
Feverfew	Skullcap
Foxglove	Sonchus
Ginkgo biloba	Sorrel
Ginseng	Stevia
Goat's rue	Tansy
Goldenseal	Urtica
Gypsywort	Witch hazel
Horehound	Wood betony
Horsetail	Wormwood
Lavender	Yarrow
Liquorice	Yerba Buena

### Nursery, Floriculture, and Horticulture Crops, Horticulture

Honey	Tea Leaves
Turfgrass	Maple Syrup
Hops	

### Annual Bedding Plants

Begonia	Coleus
Dahlia	Geranium
Impatiens	Marigold
Pansy	Petunia
Snapdragon	Vegetable Transplants

### Potted Flowering Plants

African Violet	Azalea
Flowering Bulbs	Poinsettia

### Potted Herbaceous Perennials

Astilbe	Columbine
Coreopsis	Daylily
Dianthus	Heuchera
Hosta	Ornamental Grasses
Peony	Phlox
Rudbeckia	Salvia
Vinca	

### Cut Flowers

Carnation	Chrysanthemum
Delphinium	Gladiolus
Iris	Lily
Orchid	Rose
Tulip	

### Cut Cultivated Greens

Asparagus Fern	Coniferous Evergreens
Eucalyptus	Leatherleaf Fern
Pittosporum	

### Foliage Plants

Anthurium	Bromeliad
Cacti	Dieffenbachia
Dracaena	Fern
Ficus	Ivy
Palm	Philodendron
Spathiphyllum	

### Christmas Trees

Balsam Fir	Blue Spruce
Douglas Fir	Fraser Fir
Noble Fir	Scots Pine
White Pine	

### Deciduous Flowering Trees

Crabapple	Dogwood
Crepe Myrtle	Flowering Pear
Flowering Cherry	Flowering Plum
Hawthorn	Magnolia
Redbud	Service Berry

### **Broadleaf Evergreens**

Azalea	Boxwood
Cotoneaster	Euonymus
Holly	Pieris
Rhododendron	Viburnum

### **Deciduous Shade Trees**

Ash	Elm
Honey Locust	Linden
Maple	Oak
Poplar	Sweetgum
Sycamore	

### **Landscape Conifers**

Aborvitae	Chamaecyparis
Hemlock	Juniper
Pine	Spruce
Yew	

### **Deciduous Shrubs**

Barberry	Bubbleia
Hibiscus	Hydrangea
Rose	Spirea
Viburnum	Weigela